Toronto metro

HONEST TO THE E(N)D
metroNEWS

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WELCOME 2017 IN STYLE — WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

What's happening across Toronto

metroNEWS

Counter-clockwise from top: Suicide Squad, starring Will Smith as Deadshot and Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, the movie Pixels and the television show Suits are just some of the productions shot throughout Toronto.
WARNER BROS. PICTURES; SONY PICTURES VIA AP; IAN WATSON/USA NETWORK

The 6 takes centre stage

Like any budding movie star, Toronto wants its own IMDB page

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Westwood: Enough with giving the middle finger to 2016 **World**

Yonge and St. Clair feeling a little 'tired'

DEVELOPMENT

Developer wants to bring retail interest back to area

Slate Asset Management spokesman Lucas Manuel says the company is trying to bring shoppers back and revitalize the four corners of Yonge and St. Clair. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After years of languishing in a commercial torpor, the four corners at Yonge St. and St. Clair Ave. are undergoing a retail revitalization it's hoped will transform the area by 2018.

"It's kind of like a time capsule," said Lucas Manuel, chief operating officer of Slate Asset Management, referring to the neighbourhood, home to a hodgepodge of struggling retailers in what was once a prime destination for luxury shoppers.

A series of incremental losses over the years, including the 2004 migration of local employer Imperial Oil to Calgary, has robbed the area of pep and vigour.

"Most reasonable people agree Yonge and St. Clair looks tired," says local councillor Josh Matlow (Ward 22, St. Paul's).

Slate Asset Management has been buying up properties in the neighbourhood since 2013, starting with a parcel of five buildings that included two at the corners of Yonge and St. Clair, said Manuel.

Five transactions later, the company owns 10 properties, including buildings at the four corners of Yonge and St. Clair.

Slate paid about $500 million for the eight properties on and near the four corners, said Manuel. Matlow says he had reservations when he learned the properties were being bought up by one company.

"I was really concerned that they were going to rush in with some Goliath development," said Matlow.

Instead, Slate has taken what Matlow calls a respectful approach that included hiring an internationally celebrated street artist to beautify a barren wall overlooking St. Clair Ave. W. this summer.

The artist, Phlegm, was a bit of a hard sell, but the resulting mural was well-received. Phlegm drew the outline of a woman and filled the space in with representations of Toronto neighbourhoods.

Slate is about 80 per cent done renovating the property it owns at 2 St. Clair Ave. E., the building over the subway entrance.

A warren of hallways on the concourse level has been removed, Rexall has moved into a bright new location and a Starbucks opened recently facing the street. Work on a giant skylight is underway. A dark awning over the intersection has been removed.

"That was an important place for us to start — it's kind of the gateway, because that's where people get off the subway and enter Yonge and St. Clair," said Manuel.

Part of the complex is owned by the Weston family, which is planning to renovate its portion of the building, said Manuel.

Slate is hoping to unify the exteriors of the buildings at the four corners, the streetscape, street furniture and paving, to create a more pleasant experience for residents and shoppers. They're hoping to draw independent store owners and kickstart a local business improvement association.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAMAGE

Family unable to return to home after explosion

A resident still has nightmares after house explosion. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's been six months since a house blew up on an east Mississauga street, shaking the normally quiet neighbourhood and damaging dozens of nearby homes, but Natalie Lewandowski says she still has nightmares.

Twelve weeks pregnant at the time, Lewandowski was home alone when the house on Hickory Dr., just a few houses away from the one she shared with her mother, boyfriend and sister, exploded without warning.

"I'm traumatized by it. " Lewandowski said Wednesday. The force of the explosion shattered the townhouse's windows and lifted the vent covers out of the floor; a piece of lumber pierced through the roof.

"I was in the living room and the explosion happened and I literally thought I was going to die," she said.

Lewandowski's family hasn't been able to return since; the townhouse, owned by her mother, was badly damaged and is still undergoing repairs, one of 33 homes still uninhabitable half a year later.

"Now, any noise I hear scares me. I get frightened so easily," Lewandowski said. "… Every loud noise or bang or anything outside, I'm like, 'What's happening?'"

And although what happened is clear, how and why is still murky.

Owned by Robert Nadler and his spouse Diane Page, Hickory Drive suddenly exploded on June 28, raining chunks of concrete, wood, paper and pink insulation down on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Both were killed in the explosion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Detective charged with cocaine possession

A Toronto detective has been charged with possession of a narcotic after cocaine was discovered in his misplaced wallet, Toronto police say.

Toronto Police Service Det. Const. Kirk Blake, of the Guns and Gangs Task Force, attended court on Sept. 19 in Scarborough, as a witness to a matter related to his professional duties, police say. The cocaine was unrelated to Det. Const. Blake's official duties, police say.

He is scheduled to appear in court at Old City Hall on Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. and has been suspended with pay.

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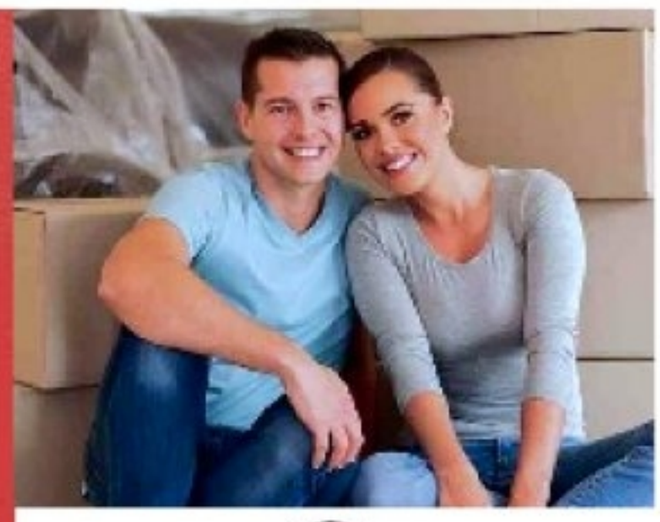

CASH $ MAX PAYDAY LOANS

Guide to a cheap(er) New Year's Eve

Stuck without any New Year's Eve plans and a serious post-holiday credit card debt? Metro has you covered. Here are five easy, and affordable, ways to count down to 2017 in the city.

MAY WARREN METRO

1 NYE Nathan Phillips Square

This free city hall party is about as Toronto as you can get. Celebrate the last few minutes of 2016 as you skate on the ice rink, sip hot chocolate and enjoy some musical performances. Fireworks are promised after midnight.

2 Harbourfront Centre: A New Years Eve Ice Skating Jam Named Saturdays

Another free option if you're looking to strap on your skates. This event, billed, as "Toronto's block party on ice," will feature a DJ. Rentals are available if you don't own skates.

3 NYE 2017 Dundas Video

This Dundas West bar is hosting a blowout to mark "one of the worst most messed up years on record coming to an end." There's no cover, $6 drinks, and free games, with $35 "bottles of bubbles," making it one of the more affordable options out there if you're set on a bar.

GET HOME SAFE ON THE TTC Although we gripe about it all year long, New Year's Eve is the night the TTC can come to our rescue. The entire service is free from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Fireworks light up Nathan Phillips Square during the New Year's Eve celebration for 2016. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

4 A very Bowie New Year's Eve

Danforth Ave's Old Nick Pub lets you ring in 2017 with music from one of the greats we lost in 2016. No cover and free champagne at midnight.

5 Rent your condo party room

If someone hasn't already snagged it this is a great option if your apartment is too small to squeeze in all your friends. Most condos have them available for a fee and they offer different amenities from bars to crackling fireplaces.

6 Your couch

This is always the cheapest option. If you don't have cable you can still catch the New York City countdown livestream at timessquareball.net. And if you're trying to get kids to bed early there's always the cunning Netflix countdown that mimics the start of 2017.

OPTIONS

Bubbles on a budget

If you're looking to stay in, or head to a house party and need something to bring, bubbly doesn't have to break the bank. LCBO product consultant Thomas Hwang has some options to pricey champagne.

Crémant — This is the term for French sparkling wine that can't be called Champagne because it comes from different regions. There are several varieties at the LCBO including one from the Loire Valley for about $20. "It still gives you that champagne flavour without the champagne price," said Hwang.

Prosecco — This white sparkling wine hails from Italy and has "a fresher taste" than champagne, Hwang said. The price point is anywhere from $14-$25.

Cider — If sparkling wine is not your thing, Hwang recommends cider from "anywhere in Ontario." Single cans are "very cheap" at between $2.50 and $4.00.

INTERNET MOVIE DATABASE

The 6ix says it should have its own page

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

You may remember this performer from such films as Good Will Hunting, A Christmas Story and the 2014 remake of Robocop.

It's highly versatile, comes fairly cheap and even occasionally stars as itself.

It's Toronto. And like any budding star, the city wants its own Internet Movie Database (IMDB) page.

In a motion set to go to the Economic Development Committee next week, the Toronto Film, Television and Digital Media Board is recommending the city set up and maintain its own page on the popular movie website.

Suicide Squad is one of the most famous recent movies shot in "Hollywood North." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eric Jensen, film manager for the city of Toronto, said it's part of a new marketing and branding initiative to promote the city and attract new film and movie business.

The page would feature Toronto's cinematic resumé, including all the cities it has stood in for on the silver screen.

"We've doubled for a dozen different locations in the last 10 years or so," Jensen said. "Whether it's Toronto as Toronto or Toronto as New York or Chicago."

In addition to Baltimore, Washington D.C., Boston and Philadelphia, Toronto has also stood in for an old-fashioned version of itself in historical dramas such as Murdoch Mysteries.

Jensen said Toronto even played Nice, France, in the 2012 TV series Transporter.

As for when the page will appear, it could be a while.

Even if the recommendation is approved, Jensen said setting up the page will involve a "lengthy approval process" from IMDB.

Toronto's highlight reel

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002)
This hit romantic comedy profiles a Greek-American family in Chicago planning their daughter's wedding. But it was shot in Toronto.

Suits
Now famous for being the show that Prince Harry's girlfriend stars in, the legal drama has been shot in Toronto for years. The streets and skyscrapers stand in for Manhattan.

Pixels (2015)
This 2015 Adam Sandler film about aliens channelling video games to attack earth was nominated for a "golden raspberry" as the worst movie of 2015. Toronto doubles as Washington D.C.

Orphan Black
This hit Canadian sci-fi TV show is shot right here in Toronto, but creators reportedly left it ambiguous where it takes place.

Spotlight (2015)
You might recognize some of the background shots from this drama about the Boston Globe's investigation into sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. The film is all about Boston, but some of it was shot here in Toronto.

Cosmopolis (2012)
This thriller starring Robert Pattinson gives Toronto another chance to stand in for Manhattan.

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Bye-bye to 'Buy! Buy!'

Honest Ed's will close its doors forever on Saturday. Since opening in 1943, the block-spanning bazaar left an indelible mark on Toronto's cultural landscape. Now, as Ed's era comes to a close, Metro charts the high points — and low prices — of the iconic store's 70-year journey.

TEXT: LUKE SIMCOE/METRO; GRAPHICS: ANDRÉS PLANA/METRO

1943 – Ed and Anne Mirvish open The Sports Bar, a small women's clothing store near Bathurst and Bloor. The monthly rent for the 5-metre wide store is a mere $55.

1946 – The store undergoes its first expansion, after the Mirvishes purchase a stretch of buildings along Bloor. The shop is renamed Anne & Eddie's, and begins to establish itself as an affordable alternative to more expensive retailers.

1948 – After expanding into adjacent stores, the shop starts selling general household items and is renamed Honest Ed's.

1952 – The Mirvishes purchase their first property on Markham Street: a house directly behind their Bloor Street facade. They go on to purchase seven more homes on the street.

1962 – After plans to build a parking lot along Markham are scuttled, Anne Mirvish establishes the area as an artists' enclave, moving her own studio into what is now the Victory Café. The street would eventually evolve into an eclectic mix of galleries, businesses and restaurants and be christened Mirvish Village.

1958 – The store expands west to Markham Street, encompassing 6,000 square metres of retail space. The "World's Largest Readograph" is unveiled — a 40-metre-long sign along Markham.

1984 – Honest Ed's completes its last expansion, reaching Bathurst Street in the west. The move adds 15,000 square metres of retail space and creates the store we know today. It marks the debut of the Honest Ed's marquee, which features 23,000 light bulbs.

1984 – Mr. T visits Honest Ed's for a book signing. It's the latest in a long line of promotional stunts dreamed up by Ed Mirvish.

1987 – Ed Mirvish hosts the store's first turkey giveaway, a tradition that would continue every Christmas until 2015.

2007 – Ed Mirvish dies. A sign in the store's Bloor Street window commemorates its co-founder.

2013 – It's announced that Honest Ed's and the surrounding Mirvish Village are on sale for $100 million. In October, the property is purchased by Vancouver-based developer Westbank.

2016 – As a tribute to Honest Ed's and the Mirvish family, the TTC replaces all the signs at Bathurst Station with hand-painted versions done in the store's iconic style.

A fun store that took being open — to everybody — seriously

HONEST ED'S

Shoppers get, and share, retail history

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Noelle Paredes-Plaza took her kids to Honest Ed's for the last time Thursday.

She bought handbags, a few utensils and cheap sunglasses for her six-year-old son Rafael and three-year-old Leila.

The regular shopping trips are a family tradition for Paredes-Plaza; her parents used to take her to the iconic bargain store on weekends after they immigrated to Toronto from the Philippines in 1988.

As they wound their way through the near-empty aisles, she explained that Honest Ed's is synonymous with the diversity and openness that attracted her family to the city decades ago.

"Honest Ed's has been so representative of Toronto," she said. "Regardless of your financial means, anyone could shop here for anything. I'll miss that idea more than anything else."

After 68 years at the corner of Bathurst and Bloor, the lights at Honest Ed's — all 23,000 of them — are set to dim on Saturday. The famous store is closing down to make way for the redevelopment of Mirvish Village in 2017.

The hundreds of shoppers in Honest Ed's Thursday weren't so much looking for a new spatula or sweater, but rather the chance to take home a piece of history.

Sage Sayed beamed with pride as staff helped him wrap a giant poster for the popular musical Les Miserables.

"My childhood just came back when I saw it," said the North York resident.

When he was a child, Sayed and his parents made countless visits to Honest Ed's. He still remembers how he'd get lost among the assortment of movie posters, books, clothing, utensils and handwritten signs.

Had the store not been closing, the Les Miserables poster would have set back Sayed $250. Now, in a bargain befitting Honest Ed Mirvish, he took it home for $75.

"It's all worth it, man. Piece of history somewhere in my house," he said.

"I just can't believe this place is gone."

Noelle Paredes-Plaza and her husband Keith brought Rafael, 6, and Leila, 3, for a final trip to Honest Ed's. GILBERT NGABO/ METRO

CYBER SECURITY

Obama sanctions Russia for hacking

In a sweeping response to election hacking and other meddlesome behaviour, U.S. President Barack Obama on Thursday sanctioned Russian intelligence services, kicked out 35 Russian officials and closed down two Russian-owned compounds in the U.S. It was the strongest action the Obama administration has taken to date to retaliate for a cyberattack.

"All Americans should be alarmed by Russia's actions," Obama said. He added: "Such activities have consequences."

The U.S. also released a detailed report about Russia's hacking infrastructure that it said was designed to help computer specialists prevent more hacking. And Obama said more action was coming.

The spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin said the new sanctions were a sign of Obama's "unpredictable and, if I may say, aggressive foreign policy" and were aimed at undermining president-elect Donald Trump.

Obama's move puts Trump in the position of having to decide whether to roll back the measures once in office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama says more action against Russia is coming. GETTY IMAGES

SYRIA

New ceasefire brokered

Syria and its chief ally Russia reached a ceasefire agreement with Syria's mainstream rebel fighters Thursday, a potential breakthrough in the six-year civil war.

The nationwide truce, set to begin at midnight local time, was brokered by both Russia and Turkey, which support opposing sides, and was confirmed by a Syrian opposition spokesman, who said most major rebel groups would abide by it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don't blame 2016

What people really hate is not this year's events but what they have shown us about this life

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

There's perhaps nothing more useless than wishing away a chunk of time. I can pretend that I never wore four-inch rubber heels in Grade 8, that I never made a $250 phone call from Paris to an ex, and that yesterday was suitably productive.

That doesn't make it true. It only makes me deluded.

And so I, for one, definitely do not wish to send 2016 off with a raised middle finger. Enough with all these Facebook f— you's tagged to celebrity deaths, political events and humanitarian crises. You don't hate this year. If you're like me, it might have actually been full of love and adventure. Maybe you had a baby or got a good grade on a paper. Maybe it wasn't stand-out, but totally fine, in its way. Those who suffered deep personal losses might want to see the back of 2016, with far more justification.

But one calendar year is as responsible for the horrors that occur within it as the blazing sun or rotating moon.

What many people are really saying when they say they hate 2016 is they hate what it's shown us about this life. That inspiring people die, and morally bankrupt people win presidencies, and nationalism can trump humanism, and racism and sexism never went anywhere, and the rich are getting grotesquely richer, and the masses can be convinced that the truth doesn't matter, and the world can drag its heels while climate change looms, and we can still be goaded into hate before understanding, that American exceptionalism is alive and well, and that money and fame, above all, make you worthy.

If you really wanted to blame a chunk of time for Donald Trump, you might be reaching back to decades of undermining trust in governments and media combined with dramatic social changes and widening inequality. In 2013, Bill Maher was already bemoaning the hyper-politicization of every aspect of American life, including what beer you drink, and the way Americans can't agree even on reality.

It has taken a long time to get here. And 2017 will wipe none of it away. Anyone disgusted by Trump's election better gird their loins for his actual presidency as pu–y-grabber-in-chief. Anyone dismayed by the floundering respect for science and facts must know those trends don't dissipate at midnight on Dec. 31.

I'm not exactly sure why people think they need to rush into a year set to put the Israeli and Palestinian conflict on yet another brink and drum up tension between China and the U.S.

Of course, hoping that next year will be better is an old tradition, and one we shouldn't exactly dispose of, depending on how you define "better."

Perhaps, we'll find that Donald Trump was just the wake-up call that the American left needed. Maybe the loss of iconic figures will make room for a new generation of leaders.

The urge to body-drop the whole last 365 days reminds me of the feeling I used to get after slogging home in the dark and snow in the middle of winter, shutting the front door to the searing cold and climbing into bed with Netflix.

Then, of course, I got up the next morning to a new day, and the same old snow.

Three-year-old Melissa Gurung dances as family members relax. The family is struggling to afford their home and may have to sell it. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UTICA, N.Y.

Refugees keep Rust Belt town alive

Inside the hall of a former Episcopalian church, Somali Bantu high school students sit in a circle, giggling as a speaker shares tips on applying for summer jobs.

Sneakers and pants peek out from beneath long skirts and, behind the girls' hijabs, faces glow with eyeliner, crimson lipstick and bronze contour.

On another side of the room, four teens from Burma perfect hip-hop moves to a Korean boy band song.

"When I'm here I can let loose a bit," said Layla Ali, 17, fiddling with her hand-me-down iPhone. "I feel like I'm an American."

These teens are the new face of Utica, a Rust Belt town in upstate New York. Their presence has helped the working-class city spring back to life, and reverse years of population decline after the factories, textile mills and food processing plants closed. Layla and 400 other refugees have been resettled here every year for the past 35 years. The volunteer-run Midtown Utica Community Center helps them adjust to their new lives.

Utica's experience is a counter-narrative to Donald Trump's message that immigrants are a security threat and an economic drain.

"We used to have more than 100,000 people in Utica, then it shrunk to 60,000," said Kathryn Stam, an anthropologist at SUNY Polytechnic Institute who volunteers at the community centre. "Refugees have really saved Utica."

> "I would love to have president-elect Trump come here. He'd see that something is working here."
> Mayor Robert Palmieri

Utica's population has stabilized and is growing. One quarter of its 62,000 residents are foreign-born. Many families have scraped together enough to buy and renovate abandoned houses that would otherwise be torn down.

"Utica is special because of its size and high concentration of refugees," Stam said. "But in fact other Rust Belt cities across the U.S. have been welcoming refugees for decades without incident."

There have been a few points of tension. Proctor High School is bursting with 3,000 students who speak 42 different languages.

In 2015, New York State filed a lawsuit, alleging older refugee students were being channelled into non-academic alternative programs. The Utica City School District settled earlier this year, agreeing to create policies that would ensure refugee students, including those who are 21, can access regular programs.

Mayor Robert Palmieri believes these incidents are growing pains on the road to change. He recently struck a committee to improve the hiring of minorities in public roles, including in the police and fire departments. "The unknown can be fearful, or you can embrace it," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Let's make it even better'

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

2017 a year to shape Canada, governor general says

Governor General David Johnston is marking the start of what's likely his last few months as the Queen's representative in Canada by urging all Canadians to make 2017, Canada's 150th birthday, a legacy year.

"This year we celebrate, and we stand at a threshold. We have a rare, once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about Canada and to look to the future," Johnston said in his annual New Year's message. "We have a chance to reflect, to reaffirm, to look ahead and say: We love this country. We've come so far. Let's make it even better."

Johnston's term is up in September, but how his replacement will be selected has yet to be determined.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told The Canadian Press in a year-end interview that he hasn't given much thought yet on how the next governor general will be appointed.

But he said whatever the process, it will likely be in keeping with what he characterized as his government's approach to appointments in general.

"Diversity and minority representation and hearing a broad range of voices in appointment positions across this country is important to me," he said. "So it would surprise me if whatever process we end up putting in place for helping me select the next governor general didn't put a tremendous emphasis on bringing in a broad range of perspectives and voices for me to choose from."

Johnston, Canada's 28th governor general, was appointed in 2010 after a committee proposed a list of names to then-prime minister Stephen Harper.

Two years later, Harper struck a formal panel to advise on future vice-regal appointments, and Trudeau said he'll review that system before deciding on how he'll go forward. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nicolas Trudel from Quebec City views a decaying nine-metre humpback whale carcass in Whale Cove, N.S., on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOVA SCOTIA

Another mystery washes ashore

A dead whale has washed up in the same area of western Nova Scotia that has seen scores of dead herring, starfish, clams and lobsters litter the shoreline — but fisheries officials say it's too early to say whether the deaths are related.

Jennifer Thibodeau and her husband were driving past the beach on Whale Cove on Tuesday when they spotted what appeared to be a young whale, perhaps nine metres long, near the high water mark.

She said the humpback whale did not appear to have any external injuries that could easily explain its death.

"It's really sad. I was crying about it this morning," said Thibodeau, whose home is about 150 metres from the beach.

Fisheries officials say it's too early to say whether the whale's death is related to a mysterious fish kill that appears to have spread to new species, including starfish, clams, lobsters and mussels now washing ashore alongside thousands of herring.

Officials have tested for infections, diseases, toxins, predators and broader water quality issues — with all coming back negative so far. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTHY EATING

McD's fights to shed its image

The head of McDonald's Canada wants you to know one thing as the Golden Arches prepares to mark its golden anniversary.

"I will tell you straight out that the reputation we have for food is absolutely unfair, unrealistic and a total ... fill in the blank," says president and CEO John Betts, slamming his hand on a table during a recent interview.

"It's baloney."

Next year, McDonald's will mark 50 years in Canada, an important milestone for a company that continues to fight a reputation for unhealthy eating.

Since taking the helm of the Canadian operations eight years ago, Betts still finds himself trying to stop critics from using McDonald's as an example of where not to eat. It's an effort he sees as critical if the fast-food giant is to thrive at a time when Canadians are more nutrition-conscious. "I've been eating this food for 50 years," says Betts, whose trim frame belies his 64 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, December 30, 2016-January 2, 2017

DANIELLE PARADIS ON JOSEPH BOYDEN

In the current controversy there's tension between how mainstream Canada defines indigenous and how the First Nations, Inuit and Métis do.

"Where are you from?"

It's one of the first questions asked by indigenous people when they meet. It's asked because kinship is defined by where people come from, and who their folks are.

This week the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network's Jorge Barrera released an investigation questioning Joseph Boyden's indigenous heritage. Boyden is one of Canada's most prominent writers on indigenous culture.

Much of the confusion surrounding Boyden's heritage is the result of his own shifting story. Boyden has represented himself, variously, as Métis, Ojibwe, Anishinaabe and Nipmuc. He has also identified himself as Mi'kmaq in published quotes that he claims were the results of misunderstandings.

In the conversations around Boyden there's tension between how mainstream Canada defines indigenous and how First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures do. Identity in these communities is complicated; kinship is viewed differently by different groups.

The controversy also brings to the surface deep issues of colonialism in Canada. Since the late 1880s the Canadian government has operated under a paternalistic statutory regime that, in seeking to categorize people as "Indians" for the purpose of control, imposes on indigenous people a Eurocentric notion of the nuclear family. Such top-down categorization inevitably leads to confusion over who's in and who's out.

Boyden's indigenous ancestry is both fundamentally elusive and fundamentally important.

And for an indigenous person raised or living in an urban environment, it can be a challenge to claim identity. One needs to decolonize one's own story in a diaspora. By way of example, I'm Métis, and my family comes from Red River. Far from clinging to indigenous identity, my family has walked through the world with the privilege afforded to those who could "pass" as white. At the same time my grandmother passed on the tradition of jigging to my sister. My grandmother grew up around Métis culture in a way that her children and grandchildren have not.

Governor General David Johnston invests Joseph Boyden as a Member of the Order of Canada during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on Nov. 17, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kim Tallbear is an associate professor of native studies at the University of Alberta. I asked her about indigenous heritage and the recent allegations against Boyden. "I'm not looking to call Boyden out and I don't want to paint him as a bad guy," she said. "I view him as a part of a broader structural problem."

Tallbear, who doesn't know Boyden personally, said that his shifting stories about indigenous identity are familiar. "It sounds similar to examples of 'playing Indian' that tracks pretty closely with stories from the U.S.," she said.

Indeed, claiming indigenous heritage based on some long-ago, often unnamed relative has practically become a trope in mainstream culture. Actor Johnny Depp has done it, as has, more recently, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

In part, our current identity politics, which lends a certain moral gravitas to minorities, is responsible for this desire to pretend. And in Canada, which is finally approaching a desire for reconciliation, there are awards, scholarships and grants — real money — for peoples whose history has been marginalized by colonialism.

There's a whiff of white supremacy to the idea that someone would appropriate indigenous identity as a shortcut to any kind of advantage. As if concessions to indigenous peoples were given freely. As if indigenous peoples haven't had to fight at every turn to gain and protect what rights they have. As if racism against indigenous people were not a widespread, and increasingly acknowledged, reality.

After Maclean's magazine labelled Winnipeg Canada's most racist city in 2015, Mayor Brian Bowman took the opportunity to address the reality of that statement and announce a host of new initiatives aimed at providing training on the impact of residential schools and combatting racism.

The obvious question — how can racism and the desire for indigenous identity coexist? — has a not-so-obvious answer. As mainstream settler society becomes more aware of the horrors indigenous people have faced — residential schools and forced removal from their homes, for starters — members of that society will go to greater lengths to avoid feeling implicated in such a history.

Tallbear said that indigenous communities talk about kinship in ways that defy mainstream assumptions. Tallbear, who literally wrote the book on native American DNA (it's called "Native American DNA"), explained that the handful of genetic markers that confirm genetic ancestry of indigenous people harken back to ancient founders. So having indigenous DNA proves ancestry but not necessarily kinship in a community, just as a person may have German ancestry without any cultural ties to Germany. Boyden's DNA markers are therefore irrelevant to the conversation.

All of this helps explain why it's difficult for non-indigenous people to understand why Boyden's indigenous ancestry is both fundamentally elusive and fundamentally important.

"I don't feel like most people who play Indian are being deliberately disingenuous," Tallbear said. She explained that many families claim a First Nations ancestor, and that in the U.S. it was very common for people to come up to her to tell her about blood to indigenous people.

Conversations around indigenity aren't about holding up ideas of racial purity; they're about letting communities define themselves.

Danielle Paradis is an urban-affairs columnist for Metro Edmonton

Everything fake is new again in 2016

Rick Salutin

This was the year of fake news, as I keep reading. But so were most years preceding it.

In 2002, an adviser to U.S. President George W. Bush derided journalists for seeing themselves as part of a "reality-based community" who believe in a "discernible reality" that they report on objectively. "But that's not the way the world works any more," said the mouthpiece. "We're an empire now and when we act, we create our own reality."

History doesn't repeat precisely, but it echoes. Fake news isn't new, but there are new wrinkles.

A special wrinkle in the current era is provided by mainstream journalism's delusions of its own objectivity. So they were sincerely shocked when Trump blatantly lied and shamelessly contradicted himself. For a brief, glorious moment they explicitly labelled all his lies as lies — something that never happened before in the history of reporting lies by officially respectable figures.

But in the aftermath of the election, they've abandoned that frankness and reverted to their old double standards in covering highly comparable events like the sieges of Aleppo ("shameful") versus Mosul ("heroic").

Personally, I still consider mainstream media bias a far more serious issue than "fake news." In fact, I'm discovering that the infuriating hypocrisy of MSM bias — with the New York Times as the gold standard — remains ever useful in motivating efforts to pierce through it. If everything seems cheerfully, openly and equally false, it's hard to know where to start eviscerating. You get lethargic, rather than energized.

Conclusion? Stories about fake news as a major problem — are fake news.

Potential source of hope? Joke news: The Daily Show, The Onion, John Oliver, Samantha Bee, even the rejuvenated Saturday Night Live. These now have the highest credibility ratings as news sources, especially among the young. Why do humour versions of news ring so true?

It seems to me this is related to the inversions associated with humour. People often seem at their smartest when they're being funny, which makes the rest of us think that they must be smart about other things, like politics. Yet the incisiveness rarely transfers. Very funny people get very dull and conventional on political subjects. If only they could stay in their funny mode when they start in on politics — which is what happens on the joke news shows.

When you're being funny, you're relaxed, you're being yourself, you're not trying to seem smart or insightful. So your basic intelligence shines through. But when you're trying to be serious, you get anxious and strive too hard to say the sort of thing you'd find in The New York Times or that you'd opine if you were on a panel with hefty thinkers, like CBC's At Issue, or anything hosted by Anderson Cooper. Something is lost: the real, smart, insightful you.

Rick Salutin is a columnist for the Toronto Star

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Toasting the best of a bad year

IN FOCUS

Yes, 2016 tested us all, but these movies helped make it better

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Santa isn't the only one who makes lists in December.

Every year around this time I put together my annual best and worst movies lists. This year I'm changing it up. 2016 was a corker of a year in and out of movie theatres. It felt like 365 days of bad road so I'm going to concentrate on uplift; the very best of a bad year.

1. A Bigger Splash: This look at beautiful people, jealousy and desire is worth the price of admission to see Ralph Fiennes, Lord Voldemort himself, strut his stuff to disco era Rolling Stones. He unleashes some of the goofiest dance moves since Elaine Benes in what must be his loosest performance ever.

2. Deadpool: As played by Ryan Reynolds, Deadpool is part of the Marvel family, a distant cousin to Iron Man and Captain America, but he's a refreshing super-antihero, a weaponized bad attitude come-to-life with a chip on his shoulder and a raunchy quip on his lips.

While 2016 will surely be remembered for so many negatives, Hollywood served up some real positives too with, clockwise from left, Deadpool, La La Land, Moonlight and Loving among the pick of the bunch this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FOX/CONTRIBUTED

3. Everybody Wants Some: Director Richard Linklater's film Boyhood was a slice-of-life that showcased twelve years in the upbringing of a growing boy. His latest movie is also a slice-of-life but in a much-condensed form, spanning just three funny and affectionately nostalgic days in the life of a 1970s college baseball player.

4. The Handmaiden: This is an epic story of madness, con games, double crosses, double-double crosses, kinky sex, desire and more. Director Chan-wook Park wrings every ounce of lascivious pleasure from the sprawling story of sex and intrigue.

5. Hell or High Water: Echoes of the Coen Brothers ricochet throughout Hell or High Water but with its deliberate pace, Nick Cave's moody score and Jeff Bridges, Chris Pine and Ben Foster as the leads, it's more than a stop-gap between Coen Brothers' neo westerns, it's one of the most richly satisfying movies of the year.

6. La La Land: From a trickily edited opening song-and-dance number to a spectacular ballet among the stars to heartfelt human feelings, this Emma Stone, Ryan Gosling musical doesn't just breathe new life into an old genre it performs CPR on it, bringing its beating heart back to vibrant life.

7. Loving: Loving is simultaneously a powerful look at a racist time and, when it asks, "What is the danger to the state of Virginia from interracial marriage?" a timely and universal reminder that Loving v. Virginia was just one of many steps humanity has to take before everyone is afforded fundamental rights.

8. Manchester by the Sea: Manchester by the Sea is a finely acted look at grief and the aftermath of heartbreak but it's also very a funny odd couple/buddy flick that isn't afraid to flip flop between drama and comedy.

9. Moonlight: Moonlight is a compelling film about a young man finding a place in the world. Director Barry Jenkins splits the story into thirds, each examining a different time in the life of Chiron, a young, gay African-American man, as he comes to grips with who he is.

10. Paterson: Paterson luxuriates in the mundane aspects of a poetry writing bus driver's life, and is punctuated by on-screen depictions of his poetry. What could have been insufferable turns into a beautifully rendered portrait of people who find beauty and art in everyday life.

DOCUMENTARY

Film charts Fisher and Reynolds' 'unbreakable' bond

The deaths of actress and writer Carrie Fisher and her Hollywood legend mother, Debbie Reynolds, on successive days this week lend a special poignancy to an upcoming HBO film about their relationship.

The film, Bright Lights: Starring Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher, is expected to premiere on the pay cable network sometime this spring. HBO representatives did not respond to questions Thursday about whether the stars' deaths would change plans for the premiere, or whether the documentary would be changed to reflect what happened.

Carrie Fisher is understood to have come up with the idea for Bright Lights, an upcoming HBO film about her relationship with her mother Debbie Reynolds. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Although it hasn't been on television, Bright Lights was shown earlier this year at film festivals in New York and in France at Cannes.

Fisher died Tuesday at age 60 after being stricken on an airplane flight last week. Her mother was rushed to the hospital and died the next day. "She said, 'I want to be with Carrie,"' her son, Todd, said. "And then she was gone."

The project was described as Fisher's initial idea. Her mother was about to give her final live performances in Las Vegas two years ago at age 82, and Fisher wanted to document them.

Bright Lights became an examination of the lives of two women, once estranged, who were living in their final years next door to each other in a compound in Beverly Hills, California. "Their loving interdependence seems unbreakable," the Hollywood Reporter wrote in a review.

Fisher was dealing with the mental illness that fueled some of her memorable writing, and both women were dealing with the toll that increased frailty was taking on Reynolds.

"The axis on which the film turned was their relationship and their love, even though show biz warps the best of people and warps the best of relationships," Bright Lights filmmaker Alexis Bloom told The LA Times. "But at the centre of it is love, and that's sort of undiminished."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERFECT MATCH

Serena Williams says yes

Tennis great Serena Williams is tying the knot.

Williams announced her engagement to Alexis Ohanian Thursday, posting a poem on Reddit that she accepted the proposal of the social news website's co-founder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/INSTAGRAM

Dancing around the issues not an option for duo

RESET is a cinematic record of the renowned Paris Opera Ballet's transition under a controversial new director, Benjamin Millepied. CONTRIBUTED

DOCUMENTARY

Directing team tackle ballet's delicate moves with real style

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

The first rule of making a documentary about ballet is to ensure you know nothing of ballet.

It certainly worked for Alban Teurlai and Thierry Demaizière, the filmmakers hired to direct RESET, a cinematic record of the renowned Paris Opera Ballet's transition under a controversial new director.

"We knew nothing of Benjamin Millepied," admitted Demaizière of the progressive dancer who took authority of the world's oldest ballet company in 2014.

"And we knew nothing of ballet. The first meeting would therefore have had to be a total failure, but it was not the case! We had an immediate feeling with him."

Millepied is not an unknown personality in the world of dance. In fact, the French-born artist who trained in America as a forward-thinking dancer with dynamic institutions like the New York Ballet eventually found fame as the choreographer behind the Oscar-nominated drama Black Swan, where he met his famous wife Natalie Portman.

"It was not known by starting this shoot that his first ballet (with Paris Opera) would also be the last," noted Demaizière of Millepied, whose provocative leadership only lasted until early this year when he abruptly stepped down.

"The film would be in some way his testament, and testimony of his vain attempt to modernize a very ancient house rather reluctant to changes."

As such, the film aims to show how Millepied brought in progressive new training programs, rejected the authoritarian approach of his conventional colleagues and aligned with celebrities to raise funds and awareness.

"He has called into question what the foundations are of the Paris Opera," said Teurlai. "The Opera believes only in the rigidity, the hierarchy and the rigor as a source of excellence. With a bit of hindsight, it is said today that the marriage was impossible."

Still, RESET is not an assault on the stern framework of ballet. In fact, the veteran directors hope that their deep dive instead inspires a fresh approach to the sometimes closeted world.

"It is a film on the dance, but it's also a film on the management and the transmission," said Demaizière. "Seeing Benjamin Millepied surrounded by these young dancers embodying the excellence of the tradition in providing this powerful breath of modernity is frankly gratifying."

Chronicling a discipline where timing and delicacy are key bred similar challenges for the filmmaking duo.

"We brought back more than 200 hours of rushes," admits Demaizière of the painful process of distilling a dance doc to a lively length. "The pitfall that we wanted to avoid was to make a simple 'making of' — without any roughness."

These are hectic times for Demaizière and Teurlai, who have also won acclaim this year for Rocco, their upcoming no-holds-barred delve into the world of pornography.

RESET represents the directing duo's 11th film collaboration and their relationship, it appears, is more fine-tuned than ever.

"It is often said that Alban is the eye and that I am the ear," said Demaizière. "The result is always the assembly of our two eyes."

"The pitfall that we wanted to avoid was to make a simple 'making of' — without any roughness.

Thierry Demaizière (left, with his RESET co-director Alban Teurlai)

MOVIE LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN

Carlton Cinema Theatre
20 Carlton St., 416-494-9371
Arrival Fri 6:40-9:15 Sun-Thu 6:40-9:15 **Assassin's Creed** Fri 1:05-3:45-6:35-9:05 Sat 1:05-3:45-6:35 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:45-6:35-9:05 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 1:35-4-6:30-9 Sat 1:35-4-6:30 Sun-Thu 1:35-4-6:30-9 **Moana** Fri-Thu 1:30-4:05 **Passengers** Fri 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:10 Sat 1:10-3:55-6:35 Sun-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:35-9:10 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7-9:30-9:45 Sat 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7 Sun-Thu 1-1:15-3:50-4:05-6:45-7-9:30-9:45 **The Room** Sat 7 **Sing** Fri 1:20-4-6:40-9:25 Sat 1:20-4-6:40 Sun-Thu 1:20-4-6:40-9:25 **Things to Come** Fri 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:25 Sat 1:40-4:15-6:55 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:25 **Why Him?** Fri-Thu 1:25 Fri-Thu 4:10 Fri-Thu 6:50 Fri 9:20 Sun-Thu 9:20

Scotiabank Theatre
259 Richmond 416-368-5600
Assassin's Creed Fri-Tue 11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Wed 10:40-1:15-3:50-7:40-10 Thu 11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10; 3D Fri-Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 10:15-12:35-3-5:20-7:45-10:10 Sat 10:15-12:40-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 Sun-Thu 10:15-12:35-3-5:20-7:45-10:10 **Doctor Strange** Fri-Thu 10:10-7:30; 3D Fri-Thu 2-4:45-10:40 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Tue 10:30-1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-8-10:15-11 Wed 10:30-1:10-1:40-4:10-4:40-10:15-10:30 Thu 10:30-1:10-1:50-4:10-4:50-8-10:15-11; 3D Fri-Thu 11-7:35 **Nocturnal Animals** Fri-Thu 11:50-2:50-5:40-8:25-11:15 **Office Christmas Party** Fri-Thu 12:30-3:15-6-8:40-11:15 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Thu 11:40-12:10-3:20-6-6:30-9:40; IMAX 3D Fri-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40; 3D Fri-Thu 11-12:40-2:10-2:50-3:50-5:20-7-8:40-9:10-10:10 Fri-Wed 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Thu 1:40-4:50-8-11:10

Market Square
80 Front St., 416-494-9371
Assassin's Creed Fri 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05 Sun-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-9:55 **Passengers** Fri 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:45 Sat 12:55-3:55-6:55 Sun-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:45 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 Sat 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7 Sun-Mon 1-3:40-4-7-9:35-9:55 Tue 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 Wed 1-3:40-4-7-9:35-9:55 Thu 12:40-1-3:40-4-6:45-7-9:35-9:55 Sun-Mon 12:40-6:45 Wed 12:40-6:45 **Sing** Fri 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10 Sat 12:50-3:30-6:30 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:10 **Why Him?** Fri-Thu 1:10 Fri-Thu 3:45 Fri-Thu 6:40 Fri 9:25 Sun-Thu 9:25

Varsity
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304
Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them Fri-Thu 3:40; 3D Fri-Wed 12:35-6:50-10:05 Thu 12:35-9:50 Fences Fri-Mon 10:40-12:15-3:35-7:05-10:25 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:35-7:05-10:25 **Hidden Figures** Fri-Mon 10:50-1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:35-10:30 Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10 **Jackie** Fri-Mon 10:10-1:50-4:55-7:40-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:50-4:55-7:40-10:25 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 **La La Land** Fri-Sun 10-12:20-3:45-7:05-10:20 Mon 10:05-12:20-3:45-7:05-10:20 Tue-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:05-10:20 Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 **Lion** Fri-Mon 10:15-1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 Tue-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Mon 12:40-4-7:20-10:30 Tue-Wed 12:40-4-7:25-10:30 Thu 12:25-3:30-6:50-10:05 Fri-Thu 11:50-2:50-5:55-9 **Moonlight** Fri-Mon 10-1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 Tue-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40

Yonge & Dundas 24
10 Dundas St. 416-977-2642
Allied Fri-Tue 11:10-2:30-6:10-9:15 Wed 11:10-2:30-9:40 Thu 11:10-2:30-6:10-9:15 **The Autopsy of Jane Doe** Fri 9 Sun 7:15 Mon 10 Wed-Thu 9:30 **Dangal** Fri-Thu 11:35-3-6:30-10:10 **Doctor Who: The Return of Doctor Mysterio** Fri 7 Sat 1-9:45 **Fences** Fri-Thu 11:10-2:30-6-9:20 **Jackie** Fri-Thu 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:10-10:50 **La La Land** Fri-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:35 Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:30-11 Mon-Thu 12:40-4-7:25-10:45 **Lion** Fri-Tue 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:45 Wed 1:10-3:15-7:35-10:45 Thu 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:45 **London Road** Sun 4:45 Mon 7:15 Wed 7 Thu 4 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Tue 12:40-3:50-7:25-10:45 Wed 12:40-3:50-6:30-10:45 Thu 12:40-3:50-7:25-10:45 **Moana** Fri-Thu 4:10; 3D Fri-Thu 10:30-1:15-7-9:50 **Passengers** Fri-Thu 10:10-1-4-6:50-9:50; 3D Fri-Thu 11:20-2:10-5-7:50-10:55 Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:35-9:55 Mon-Thu 12:25-3:10-6:20-9:15 **The Poseidon Adventure** Fri 4:30 Sat 7 Sun 9:45 Mon 1 Tue 3:55-10:30 Wed 12:30 Thu 6:45 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Sun 11:15-2:30-5:45-9 Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8-11:30; IMAX 3D Fri-Thu 9:50-1-4:10-7:20-10:30; 3D Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30 Fri-Thu 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40-10:50 **Sing** Fri-Thu 10-11-1:45-4:30-7:15-10; 3D Fri-Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11 **The Sound of Music** Fri 1 Sat 3 Sun 1 Mon 3:45 Tue 12:30-6:45 Wed 3:15 Thu 12:30 **The Wasted Times** Fri-Tue 11:40-2:50-6:20-9:40 Wed 11:40-9:50 Thu 11:40-2:50-6:20-9:40 **Why Him?** Fri-Thu 9:50-10:50-12:50-1:55-3:40-4:40-6:40-7:45-9:30-10:35 Fri-Sun 11:45-3-6-8:40-11:30 Mon-Thu 12-2:40-5:35-8:20-11:10

MIDTOWN

Yonge-Eglinton Centre
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236
Assassin's Creed Fri-Thu 11:45-2:30-8:30; 3D Fri-Thu 5-10:50 **La La Land** Fri-Thu 10-12:55-4:10-7:10-10:20 Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:30-11 **Office Christmas Party** Fri-Thu 3:25-6-8:40-11:15 **Passengers** Fri-Thu 5:40-11:15; 3D Fri-Thu 11:20-2:10-7:50 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7 Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8-11:30; 3D Fri-Thu 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10-10:40 Fri-Thu 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30 **Sing** Fri-Thu 10:05-12:45-5:30; 3D Fri-Thu 12-2:45-8:15-11 **Why Him?** Fri-Thu 11-1:55-4:40-7:40-10:30

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Assassin's Creed Fri-Thu 1:20-7:40; 3D Fri-Thu 3:30-9:40 **Collateral Beauty** Fri-Thu 9:20 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Thu 3-6:10 **La La Land** Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:05-10:15 **Lion** Fri-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:30-10:25 **Manchester by the Sea** Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:50 **Moana** Fri-Thu 11:50 **Passengers** Fri 4:35-10:35 Sat 4:35-10:30 Sun-Thu 4:35-10:35 3D Fri-Thu 12:20-6:40 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Thu 12-3:10-6:20-9:30; IMAX 3D Fri 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Sat 1-4:10-7:20-10:25 Sun-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30; 3D Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 **Sing** Fri-Thu 5:10; 3D Fri 11:45-2:30-7:50-10:35 Sat 11:45-2:30-7:50-10:30 Sun-Thu 11:45-2:30-7:50-10:35

SilverCity Yorkdale 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456
Assassin's Creed Fri-Mon 5:20 Tue-Thu 4:50; 3D Fri-Mon 11:45-2:30-8:10-11:05 Tue-Thu 11:15-2-8-10:50 **Collateral Beauty** Fri-Mon 5:10 Tue-Thu 4:10 **Doctor Strange** 3D Fri-Mon 9:50 Tue 9:45 Wed-Thu 9:50 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri-Mon 11-2 Tue-Thu 1 **La La Land** Fri-Mon 12:45-4-7:10-10:30 Tue 12:30-3:45-7-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:05 **Moana** Fri-Mon 3:50 Tue-Thu 4:20; 3D Fri-Mon 10:20-1-7 Tue-Thu 11-1:40-7 **Office Christmas Party** Fri-Mon 7:40-10:20 Tue-Thu 7:20-9:55 **Passengers** Fri-Mon 5 Tue-Thu 5:15 ; 3D Fri-Mon 11:15-2:10-7:50-10:50 Tue-Thu 11:45-2:30-8-10:40 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri-Mon 12:30-3:40-6:50 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45; 3D Fri-Thu 10 Fri-Mon 10:30-1:40-4:50-8-11:10 Tue-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:40-10:50 Fri-Mon 10-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Tue-Thu 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 **Sing** Fri-Mon 5:30 Tue-Thu 5; 3D Fri-Mon 12-2:45-8:15-11 Tue-Thu 11:30-2:15-7:50-10:30 **Why Him?** Fri-Sat 10:50-1:30-4:35-7:20-10:10 Sun 1:30-4:35-7:20-10:10 Mon 10:50-1:30-4:35-7:20-10:10 Tue-Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15

Silvercity Fairview 1800 Sheppard Ave., 416-644-7746
Assassin's Creed Fri 4:55 Sat 3:50 Sun-Thu 4:55; 3D Fri 2:05-7:50-10:50 Sat 10:20-1-6:45-9:45 Sun-Thu 2:05-7:50-10:50 **Collateral Beauty** Fri 8:40-11 Sat 7:25-9:45 Sun-Mon 8:40-11 Tue 8:45-11:05 Wed-Thu 8:30-10:55 **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Fri 2:40-5:40 Sat 1:25-4:25 Sun-Mon 2:40-5:40 Tue 11:10-2:45-5:45 Wed 11-2-5:25 Thu 11:10-2-5:25 **Moana** Fri 10:45-1:40-4:25-7:10 Sat 10:15-12:50-3:35-6:20 Sun-Mon 10:45-1:40-4:25-7:10 Tue-Thu 11-1:40-4:25-7:10 **Office Christmas Party** Fri 10 Sat 9:10 Sun-Thu 10 **Passengers** Fri 10:50-4:20 Sat 3:35 Sun-Mon 10:50-4:20 Tue-Thu 11-4:20; 3D Fri 1:40-7:30-10:30 Sat 10:15-12:55-6:45-9:45 Sun-Thu 1:40-7:30-10:30 **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** Fri 11-12:30-3:35-6:45 Sat 11:50-2:55-6:05 Sun-Thu 11-12:30-3:35-6:45; 3D Fri 12:55-4:05-7:15-9:55-10:25 Sat 12:15-3:25-6:35-9:15-9:45 Sun-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:15-9:55-10:25 Fri 10:15-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Sat 10:15-1:10-4:20-7:30 Sun-Mon 10:15-1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 Tue-Thu 1:25-4:35-7:45-10:55 **Sing** Fri 11-12-4:15 Sat 10:15-2-3:25 Sun-Mon 11-12-4:15 Tue 11-12:05-4:15 Wed-Thu 11-4:15; 3D Fri 1:35-7-10 Sat 12:45-6:10-9:10 Sun-Thu 1:35-7-10 **Why Him?** Fri 11:20-2:10-5-8-10:40 Sat 11:20-4:35-7:10-9:45 Sun-Mon 11:20-2:10-5-8-10:40 Tue-Thu 2:10-5-8-10:40

metro TRAVEL

Your essential daily news

'Try before you buy' virtual reality experiences are becoming a big part of tourism campaigns

5 HOTTEST DESTINATIONS FOR TRAVEL IN 2017

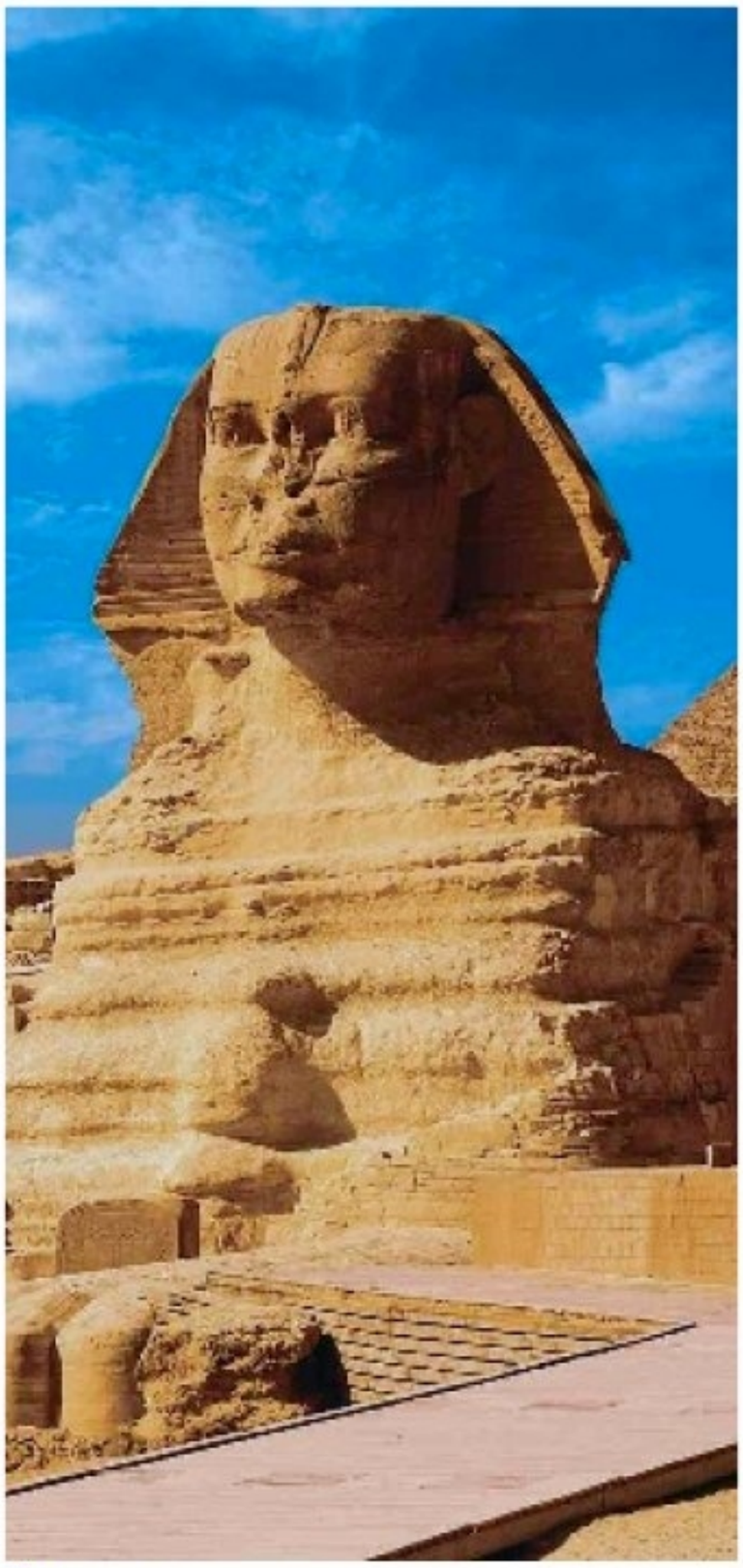
Is 'more travel' on your list of new year's resolutions, but you're not sure exactly where you'll be headed? Perhaps this list can help. From the in-your-backyard destinations to the far, far away, here are some of the world's must-see spots for 2017. **LOREN CHRISTIE/FOR METRO**

1 Portugal

Due to cheap hotel rates and mouth-watering cuisine, Portugal has risen to the top of many travellers' lists. Air Transat is increasing its direct flight service from Montreal and Toronto to both Porto and Lisbon and Air Canada Rouge is adding new flights to the Portuguese capital in summer 2017. For foodies, Exodus Travels has launched a collection of guilt-free vacations for people who want to hike, eat and drink their way through Portugal's Douro Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its award-winning wine.

2 Iceland

Thanks to its stunning and varied natural beauty — and a series of viral ad campaigns — Iceland continues to be a top draw. Research by youth travel operator Contiki has revealed that the most desired travel experience for 18-35 year olds in Canada is to bathe in Iceland's famous Blue Lagoon. And if you think the idea of bathing with 50 other people at one time is a bit unsanitary, rest assured that the water is self-cleansing and renews itself every 40 hours.



3 Egypt

G Adventures reports an eight per cent increase in travellers year over year heading to Egypt. Although numbers aren't what they were pre-revolution, it's a great time to visit some of the world's most historic monuments while avoiding the crowds and helping this former tourism giant get back on its feet. Built over 5,000 years ago, the oldest and largest of the pyramids of Giza, the Great Pyramid, is the only surviving structure of the seven ancient wonders of the world.

4 Cambodia

A recent survey by Booking.com ranks Cambodia as a top pick for 2017. The recent discovery of an ancient city below the stunning temple complex of Angkor Wat has further heightened interest among Canadians. Before you go check out, First They Killed My Father, a biography about the Cambodian genocide directed by Angelina Jolie that is being released as a Netflix Original.

5 Canada

With the 150th anniversary of Confederation taking place there has never been a better time to explore your own backyard. The epicentre of action will be the nation's capital with more than 150 events planned throughout the year in Ottawa. However, there will be plenty going on all over the country, with national parks waving entrance fees for visitors and Montreal celebrating its own 375th anniversary, to name just a few festivities.

metro SPORTS

Light-hearted digs at the Montreal Canadiens are featured in the P.K. Subban: Shots Fired comedy special, which airs Monday on CBC

Team USA's Clayton Keller celebrates scoring against Russia on Thursday at Air Canada Centre. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORLD JUNIORS

U.S. breaks free from Russian chokehold

The United States ended a near decade-long losing streak against Russia on Thursday at the world junior hockey championship.

Troy Terry's second-period goal stood as the winner as the U.S. beat Russia 3-2 for its first victory over the Russians at the under-20 tournament since 2007, a stretch of five consecutive losses.

"Especially with the history that we have, the core group of (national team development program) players we have, they've beat us the past couple times so that made it a little sweeter to beat them," said Terry.

The win temporarily moved the U.S. ahead of Canada in the Group B standings with the Canadians playing Latvia later Thursday evening.

Terry, an Anaheim Ducks prospect, scored 11:41 into the second period to give the U.S. a 3-1 lead. Terry re-directed an Erik Foley shot between the legs of Ilya Samsonov for his second goal of the tournament.

Clayton Keller and Colin White had the other goals for the Americans while Tyler Parsons stopped 25 shots in the victory.

Kirill Urakov and Kirill Kaprizov responded for the Russians while Samsonov made 34 saves.

In Group A play in Montreal, Denmark beat the Czech Republic 3-2 in overtime and Sweden scored a 3-1 victory over winless Finland.

Denmark improved to 1-1-1 with its first victory over the Czech Republic in tournament history. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Thursday night's Canada-Latvia game

IN BRIEF

It's going to be the happiest New Year ever.

Ronda Rousey, in an Instagram post, after Thursday's weigh-in. She will take on Amanda Nunes at UFC 207 Friday night for the bantamweight championship.

Renney stepping down as Hockey Canada president

Scott Smith is set to replace Tom Renney as president of Hockey Canada.

Renney announced Thursday that he's stepping down, and Smith, the organization's chief operating officer, will take over effective July 1. Renney joined the organization as president and CEO in 2014.

Renney, who will continue his role as chief executive officer, said the move to promote Smith will allow the organization to more effectively deliver on its mandate to grow the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Casey sees steady improvement on D

RAPTORS

Coach admits there's 'work to do' after loss to Golden State

Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan contests the shot of the Warriors' Klay Thompson on Wednesday night in Oakland, Calif. EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Even before this Christmas-interrupted grind of a road trip began, Toronto Raptors coach Dwane Casey was couching expectations.

He knew his team's defence would be tested by some high-powered offences, and while he had seen some improvement in the first three weeks of December, he warned that things weren't going to change entirely when the team played out west.

He figured it was still a work in progress, but there had been some reason for optimism and he needed to see that improvement continue.

Halfway through the journey, his words have been prophetic.

The Raptors have been good for most of the trip that continued in Phoenix Thursday night against the Suns, and they have been exposed at times. But the promise is greater than the disappointment.

Casey has seen better on-the-ball defence most nights and some slippage in screen-and-roll coverage. But on the whole, it's been not bad.

The Golden State Warriors, as they do, exposed the Raptors far too often in a 121-111 win on Wednesday night, shooting 57 per cent from the field, including nearly 70 per cent through the first three quarters.

"They had 56 points in the paint," Casey said after Toronto's seven-game road win streak was abruptly snapped. "We gave up layups. We were worried about taking the three out and we ended up giving up layups. We've got to do a better job of switching against a smart team like this. The small mistakes you make, they'll expose you."

To their credit, the Raptors did have some stretches of passable defence against one of the most prolific offences in the league, forcing 20 turnovers and gathering 13 steals. It continued a trend of better ball-containment defence, an area Casey has been focused on improving all season.

"That's the most important thing, guarding the ball," the coach said earlier in the trip that will move on to Los Angeles and San Antonio. "You can talk about team defence and schemes all you want to, but at the end of the day, if you don't keep your body between the ball and the basket and don't contain (the ball) something bad is going to happen. We've been doing a better job of that. We've got to continue to do that."

I would take our fight and our grit against any team in this league.
Raptors coach Dwane Casey

Ever since the season began, Casey has been taking the long view, insistent that wins will come only with incremental improvement. He's got the luxury of a very good team that always plays hard and the focus is on where the Raptors are in April, rather than today.

"We're not going to fool ourselves and think we're ready to go against (Golden State) in a seven-game series," he said. "We've got some work to do. We've got to keep improving individually." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reggie Bush GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Bush on cusp of negative feat

Reggie Bush has picked up many honours and accolades throughout his football career.

However, he's looking to avoid a dubious distinction with one game remaining.

The veteran Buffalo Bills running back has a chance of becoming the first non-quarterback since the AFL-NFL merger to finish a season with negative rushing yards (with a minimum of 10 carries). Bush has minus-3 yards on 12 carries.

According to Pro Football Reference, Bush could become the first non-QB to finish the season with negative yardage on double-digit carries since John Adams in 1961.

"Yeah, that's tough," Bush said. "I just didn't have a lot of opportunities this year. So I'm not worried about that ... if I had more opportunities, it would be a lot different story."

Bush says he'll "be ready" for a couple of carries on Sunday against the New York Jets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Decadent Pumpkin Bread Pudding

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro

Is it dessert? Is it brunch? Is it important? No, all you need to know is that these are soft, warm bowls of goodness.

Ready in 60 minutes
Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 8

Ingredients
- 7 cups Challah bread, cubed
- 3/4 cups pumpkin puree
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- pinch of nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp salt

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter 8 ramekins

2. In a large bowl, whisk everything except the bread. You want a nice smooth consistency here, so whisk out those lumps

3. In another large bowl, place cubed bread.

4. Pour wet mixture over bread and stir it all together so that every piece of bread gets coated. Let it sit for about 15 minutes

5. Scoop the coated bread into ramekins, place those on a cookie sheet to make getting them in and out of the oven easier. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until the top is golden. Allow to cool a bit before serving. Top with confectioner's sugar (or vanilla ice cream).

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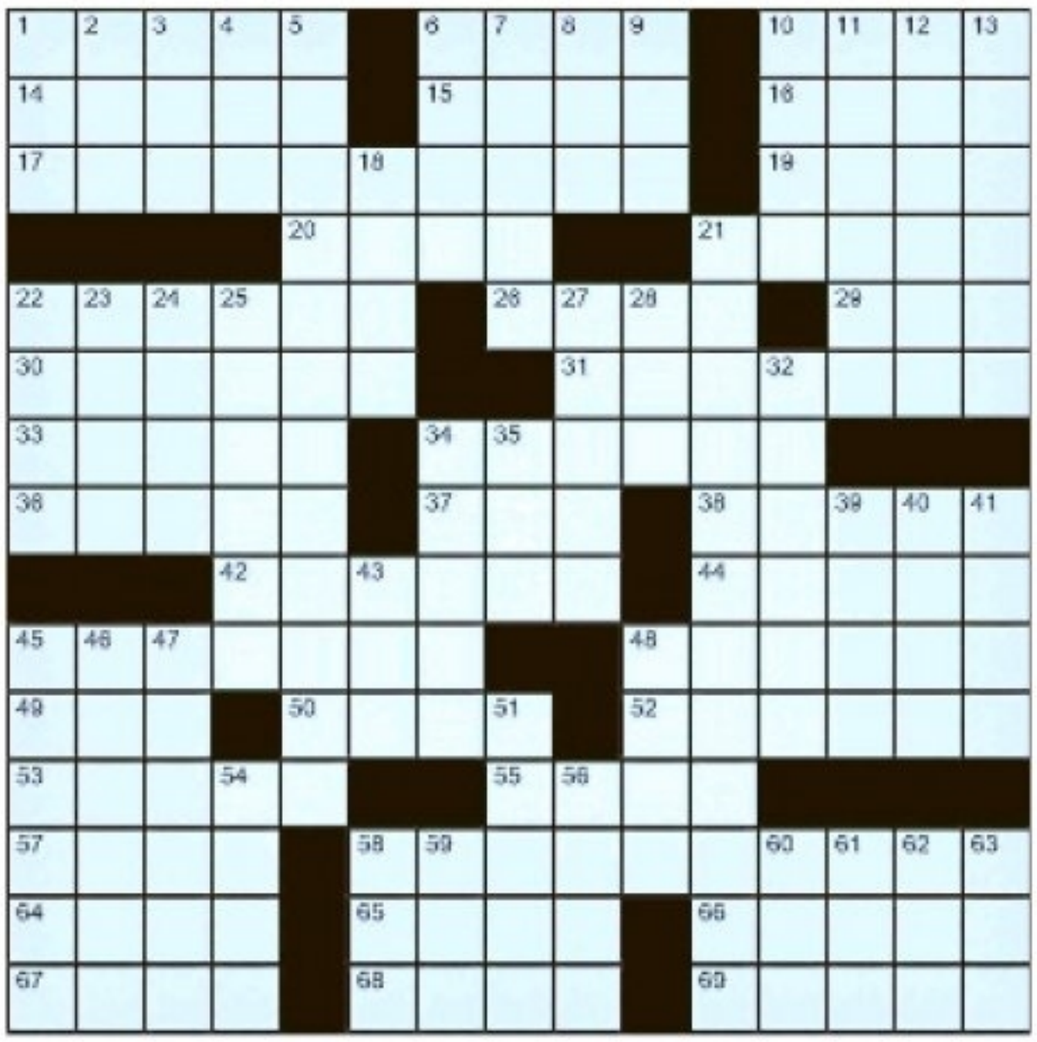
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Banquet
6. Blackthorn fruit
10. Shaker word
14. President Nixon's first VP, Spiro __
15. Comical gal Olive's
16. Group of three
17. Happy New Year! in Quebec: 2 mots
19. Resort town in Sicily
20. Prime Minister William __ Mackenzie King
21. Burger sides
22. Take off
26. Ms. Ward
29. Meower
30. Aqueduct attributes
31. Calendar's beginning
33. __ stick
34. Make a church delivery
36. Very early computer
37. F1's PC neighbour
38. Ivy League student, e.g.
42. Most Navy or Sky or Powder
44. 1872: Pen name of A Dog of Flanders novelist Marie Louise de la Ramee
45. Times Square location: 2 wds.
48. Many, in the plural
49. Logging tool
50. La __ Nostra (Crime syndicate)
52. Just-boiled-tea drinker's observation: 2 wds.
53. Be appreciative
55. Brief: French
57. __ a great time (Enjoy yourself)
58. 'Where Waters Meet' community on Miramichi Bay in New Brunswick
64. Van Halen drummer
65. Parsley, for one
66. Boreal forest
67. Home, informally
68. Crafty items e-tailer
69. Songbook standard: "__ Heat"

DOWN
1. Groovy
2. Pride
3. Ms. Jillian
4. John McCain, e.g.
5. When the fireworks go off on New Year's Eve: 2 wds.
6. 'Sound'-meaning prefix
7. Ms. Redgrave's
8. "__ Butter-milk Sky"
9. 'Legal' suffix
10. 'Trick' suffix
11. Bruises-treating ointment
12. __ algebra
13. Snugly warm
18. Harbour thumbs-ups
21. They're often worn at glitzy New Year's Eve parties: 2 wds.
22. Respiratory rattle
23. "__ Brockovich" (2000)
24. Caesar's 1901
25. Britney Spears' 'Hit' song starter: "__, __..."
27. Remove the DVD
28. Calif. baseball team
32. Moving day rentals
34. Glances at the gift
35. Initials-sharers of the singer of "Maggie May"
39. Baltic country where Vilnius is the cap.
40. Prefix to 'syncrasy' (Mannerism)
41. The __ Coast
43. 'Tail'-meaning prefix
45. Toronto: __ Phillips Square
46. Sigh
47. Uses a loom
48. Architect, Ludwig __ van der Rohe
51. Short-form words, wee-ly
54. Call to the lineup!
56. "__ Tuesday" by The Rolling Stones
58. Definite article
59. At the age of, in Latin [abbr.]
60. Ms. Imbruglia, to pals
61. Affiliation
62. Range maker
63. Actress Ms. Manheim, to pals

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
If you want to appeal to the sympathy of a parent or a boss, either on your behalf or on behalf of someone else, this definitely is the day to do it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Because your appreciation of beauty is heightened today, give yourself a chance to enjoy beautiful places. Visit parks, museums, galleries, beautiful buildings and special shops.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
If you have to share something today, you will be more than generous to others. In fact, you feel concerned for those who are less fortunate.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
In discussion with others today, you will establish an easy give-and-take that is supportive to both parties. That's because people are sympathetic today.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
In discussion with others today, you will establish an easy give-and-take that is supportive to both parties. That's because people are sympathetic today. .

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a romantic day. Ironically, it's also a day where you might be disappointed with someone because you expected too much. Be realistic.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you can help a family member today, you will because you feel sympathy toward his or her situation. This is a good thing, because kindness is the most important quality.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't worry if you spend time today daydreaming or being lost in thoughts of fantasy. Your imagination is heightened, which is why it's easy to drift away on clouds of escape.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is a poor day for important financial decisions. You might think things are better than they are; or you might be too generous in a financial negotiation. Remember: You count, too.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You feel sympathetic toward someone today, which is why you are so easygoing. You find it easy to appreciate what others are going through.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today you will put the needs and wants of others before your own desires, because you want to make a difference. You want to help someone if you can.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are dealing with members of groups, clubs and associations today, you will be laid-back and easygoing. In fact, you would like a chance to work with a charitable group.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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	5						2	
		4				1		

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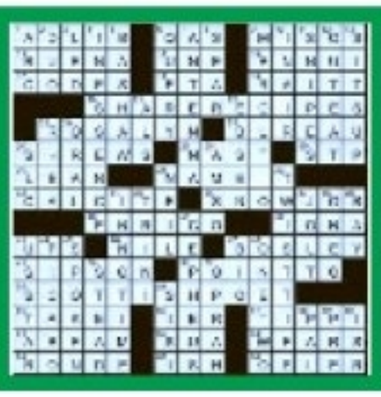

6	5	2	7	9	8	3	1	4
8	4	1	2	3	6	9	5	7
7	3	9	4	5	1	2	8	6
2	7	3	5	6	4	8	9	1
9	6	8	3	1	7	4	2	5
4	1	5	9	8	2	7	6	3
5	2	7	1	4	9	6	3	8
1	9	6	8	7	3	5	4	2
3	8	4	6	2	5	1	7	9

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